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U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal Plant Health  
Inspection Service

Plant Protection  
and Quarantine

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Pierre, SD 57501  
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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
concurs with your conclusion that the  
described project will not adversely  
affect listed species. Contact this  
office if changes are made or new  
information becomes available.

4/15/11  
Date

Scott Larson  
SD Field Supervisor  
USFWS

April 14, 2011

Subject: Review of 2010 USDA, APHIS, PPQ South Dakota  
Rangeland Grasshopper Biological Assessment

To: Natalie Gates  
Biologist

From: Amy Mesman  
Domestic Program Coordinator

We are seeking your concurrence on the endangered species protection measures as described in the attached species assessment section of our 2011 Rangeland Grasshopper Environmental Assessment.

Please consider the following when making your determination for concurrence. Grasshopper outbreaks are cyclical. When they do occur in levels that require control, programs are rarely conducted. Since 1990, only 13 control programs have been conducted on a total of 150,000 acres. Our programs are geared toward rangeland forage protection. We do not treat cropland.

According to our Environmental Impact Statement, we have three chemical control options available to us for grasshopper treatment; dimilin, malathion and carbaryl in both bait and liquid form. When PPQ conducts a program we pay 100% costs of federal land, 50% of the costs on state land and 33% of the cost on private lands.

When conducting control programs we utilize the reduced acre/agent treatment application method known as RAATS or skip swathing. This method leaves approximately 50% of the protected area untreated. Only in the case of a crop protection program would 100% of the area be covered. These programs involve a quarter to half mile buffer treatment on rangeland directly adjacent to agricultural lands to prevent grasshopper migration.

Dimilin is always our preferred choice. Dimilin is a growth regulator, a chitin inhibitor. Based on the selective mode of action, chemical price and available cost share, dimilin continues to be the most cost effective product when conducting grasshopper control



over large areas of rangeland. Dimilin is a more environmentally friendly product and has the fewest non target impacts of the three products available for our use.

In regards to crop protection programs, based on the time of year in which these programs typically occur, life stage of the grasshopper and the need to quickly eliminate the threat of grasshopper migration into adjacent lands, malathion or carbaryl would be the preferred options.

Following our consultation on the draft document via email, all changes have been incorporated and we anticipate your concurrence. We are seeking to finalize our environmental documentation and hope to receive concurrence by April 18, 2011 so that we can release the document for public comment. Thank you.

If you should have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 605/224-1713 or via email at [amy.mesman@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:amy.mesman@aphis.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Mesman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy Mesman  
Domestic Program Coordinator

Enclosure